

approved

senior tax credit task force

Minutes of the April 12, 2007, meeting

The Senior Tax Credit Task Force met on April 12, 2007, in the Banneker Room, Howard Building, 3430 Courthouse Dr., Ellicott City, MD, at 2 pm.

The following members of the task force were in attendance: Janice Bloodworth, Sue Brown, Colin Burke, Susan Buswell, Frank Chase, Don Dunn, Sharon Greisz, Sara Hamer, Sherman Howell, Ted Meyerson, and Joel Yesley.

Others from staff in attendance were Leo Oken, Jeff Meyers, and Diana Coll.

The meeting was open to the public and press.

Chairman Meyerson called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

The Chairman compared CB 10-2007 with the recommendations of the Task Force. Most of the Task Force recommendations were enacted by CB 10 either intact or in some modified form.

Sharon Greisz discussed the plans to implement CB 10. The Department of Finance has concluded that the credit enacted by CB 10 has qualifications sufficiently different from those of the Homeowners' Tax Credit (circuit breaker) that a separate application would be needed. This application should be available by May 1. To fulfill its outreach mandate, the Department plans to send postcards to all residential property owners in the County, add material to the website, and provide additional phone support. The Department will also train people from the Office on Aging and schedule help sessions in senior centers and other places. Because the application will not be available until May, it seems likely that most qualified applicants will not see the credit reflected in the July 1 tax bills. Some members of the Task Force wanted to preview the outreach materials to recommend tweaks for the senior population. The Task Force also wants to receive training, preferably at one of its meetings, on the application form and process so that Task Force members would be able to assist the public and assess real-world difficulties with the form and process.

The minutes from March 13 were approved unanimously.

The Task Force asked that a representative from the State Department of Assessments and Taxation visit the Task Force in May to discuss how other counties are addressing property tax issues for seniors.

The Task Force discussed, but did not reach a consensus, on whether the Task Force should study the need of providing tax relief to populations other than seniors.

The Task Force briefly reviewed the legislation that was passed by the General Assembly this year: HB 436 / SB 522, HB 755 / SB 486, and HB1386 / SB 962. None of these Bills is likely to have a significant impact on property tax payers in the County.

The task force adjourned a 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Meyers